

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 19 has been amended and new claim 20 has been added. The amendment and new claim find support at least in paragraphs [0029] and [0033] of the present application. Accordingly, no new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 17 and 18 have been withdrawn from consideration in response to a restriction requirement. Claims 1-16, 19 and 20 are under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW BEFORE OFFICE ACTION:

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney to discuss the pending claims before issuance of an Office Action.

Applicants believe that a more thorough review of the underlying references and the pending claims will be helpful to further prosecution.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 15, 16 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,453,541 issued to Guthrie et al. ("Guthrie"). At least for the reasons set forth herein, this rejection is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 recites at least:

a chuck which is installed on the base plate;
a hub unit which is detachably engaged to the chuck and receives discs to be stacked;

Currently amended claim 19 recites at least:

a chuck installed on a base plate, the hub unit being chucked on the chuck;

The first Office Action mailed June 19, 2006 asserts at page 4, line 2 that a chuck is described by item 190 of Guthrie. However, Applicants are unable to find any such item either illustrated in the drawings or discussed in the text of Guthrie. The December 8, 2006 Office

Action asserts that a chuck is described by item 450 in FIG. 4 of Guthrie. There is no written description of item 450 in the specification of Guthrie.

Accordingly, Guthrie fails to illustrate or describe the above-claimed features. Item 450 in FIG. 4 of Guthrie clearly does not resemble a chuck as the Office Action asserts, nor is there any description in Guthrie that indicates item 450 is capable of acting as a chuck. As a non-limiting example applicable to one or more embodiments of the present application, Applicants assert the following definition of a chuck taken from the WordReference.com online dictionary.

a holding device consisting of adjustable jaws that *center* a workpiece in a lathe or *center* a tool in a drill

Similarly, and by way of review only, the above-identified application discloses at paragraph [0039].

After installing the chuck 30 on the base plate 20, where the hub body 42 of the hub unit 40 is placed into the collet 37 provided in the chuck 30, and simultaneously, a compressed air provided through the first air port 32 is cut off, the collet 37 moves down to chuck the hub body 42. Before the hub body 42 is placed into the collet 37 provided in the chuck 30, the compressed air is provided through the first air port 32 to maintain the up movement of the collet 37.

Accordingly, Guthrie cannot be relied upon for disclosing the above-claimed features and since Guthrie fails to teach or suggest all of the features of claims 1 and 19, these claims are allowable over Guthrie. Thus, withdrawal of the 102 rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 15 and 16 these claims depend directly or indirectly on independent claim 1, and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the reasons noted above.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

Claims 2, 4, 7, 9 and 11-14 have already been found to contain allowable subject matter.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 20 is directed to a disk centering device including at least "a chuck having a collet which alternatively grabs and releases the hub unit" Therefore, it is submitted that claim 20 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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